(c) This area is an integral part of India. The question of delineation of a Line of Control between India & Pakistan in this area does not arise.

(d) The matter regarding Pakistan Army's build-up in this area preceding the two attacks, referred to in part (a), was taken up with Pakistan at the military level and we had expressed our concern.

U.S. allowed to use Gwadar Port to Pakistan

664. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has been allowed by Pakistan Government to use Gwadar Port in Baluchisthan province on the South-West Coast;

(b) if so, what are the implications of this act to our security environment; and

(c) whether it has any impact in dealing with the Punjab problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen such reports.

(b) and (c) The setting up of foreign bases in our neighbourhood will lead to a degradation of the security environment in the entire region. Government have made known their concerns in this regard to Pakistan. Both the USA and Pakistan have, however, denied the existence of any such base in Pakistan.

Delay in issue of Passports

665. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued during the past nine months of 1987 from various Zonal Passport offices of the country, zone-wise;

(b) average time taken in the issue of passport; and

(c) the number of complaints received about the delay in the issue of passports during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The information regarding the number of passports issued during the past nine months of 1987 from various Passport Offices in the country is as under:

Ahmedabad . .	52,585
Bangalore . .	31,312
Bareilly . . .	35,604
Bhopal . . .	10,132
Bhubaneswar . .	2,263
Bombay . .	1,72,007
Calcutta . . .	36,195
Chandigarh . .	43,608
Cochin . . .	52,032
Delhi . . .	60,092
Guwahati . .	2,807
Hyderabad . .	45,726
Jaipur . . .	20,059
Jalandhar . .	25,335
Kozhikode . .	45,509
Lucknow . .	22,831
Madras . . .	56,032
Patna . . .	6,553
Srinagar .	4,312
Tiruchirapalli .	42,021
TOTAL	7,67,015

(b) About 6 weeks depending upon receipt of clear police reports and completion of formalities by the applicants.

(c) 759.